DOLIN MOBILE STORAGE CASE HISTORY

THE STANLEY WORKS, NEW BRITAIN, CONN.

How conversion to DOLIN MOBILE STORAGE eliminated the need for a new storage building.

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They Put Their STORAGE ON WHEELS

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THE PROBLEM of providing increased storage space for records and supplies always accompanies the rapid growth of a business. Yet, without the addition of any new space, such a situation was recently solved at The Stanley Works of New Britain, Connecticut, internationally known manufacturers of a diversified line of hardware, hand and electric tools, steel strapping, pressed metal and other products.

Our rate of accumulating new records far exceeded the space freed by our program for destruction of old records. Also, increased office supplies were rapidly bursting the seams of our central records center and the office supply department. In addition to this, our expanding IBM operations were fast creating a storage problem for the rapid flow of processed cards.

The solution to these vexing problems *seemed* to be either decentralization into outside rented space or the construction of a new building to house the additional records and supplies. Studies favored the construction of a new building as the lesser of two evils.

At this time, however, a mobile storage system was investigated by our systems department and was found to be a more practical solution to our problems. This unique system has taken care of all of our increased storage requirements within the limits of the space already existing.

This "wall stretching" was accomplished simply by converting a large percentage of aisle space in the storage area into actual storage space. In our traditional non-mobile storage area, there had been one aisle for every two rows of equipment. In contrast, our mobile storage system now allows 6, 7, 8 or more rows of equipment with only one aisle.

The system operates on a principle of using rows of equipment which roll on ½" high "T" tracks, combined with rows of non-mobile equipment, and having only an inch or two of clearance space between rows. Each of the mobile rows contains one or more units less than the fixed row. Access to the rear units is made by rolling the mobile units sideways at the desired location. The special construction of the "dolly" bases of the mobile units permits easy movement of heavy loads; only light finger pressure is necessary. An important feature of our new system is that by conversion any existing equipment can be retained and used.

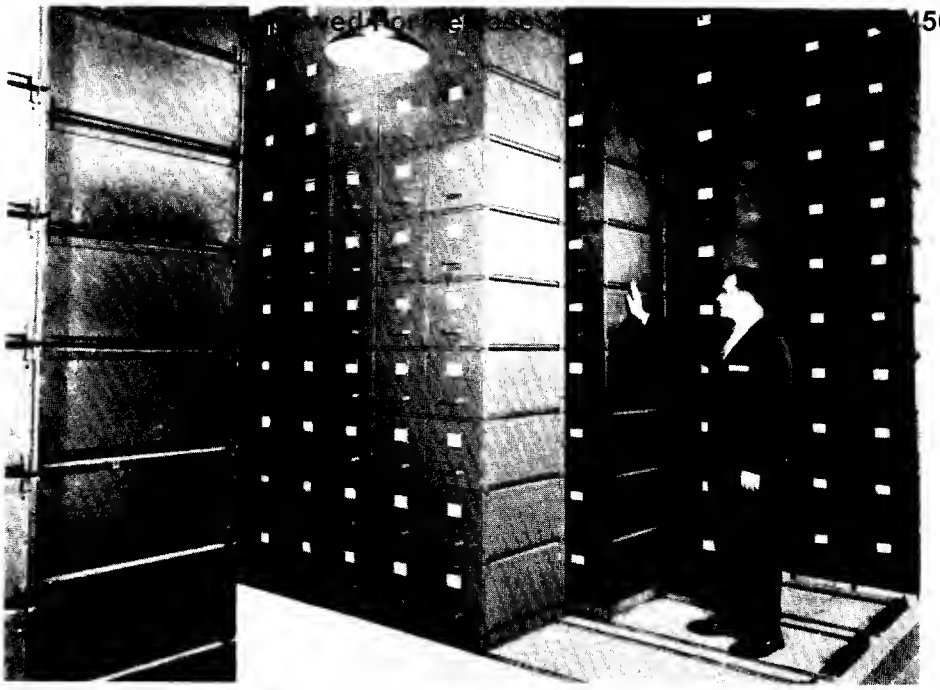
Existing Files Used

Careful layouts of our storage area were made and three individual mobile storage installations followed. Our own maintenance crew did the work.

Our existing steel transfer files were fitted with mobile bases and arranged in two banks separated by one aisle. Each bank of files consists of three mobile rows in front of one fixed row, totaling eight rows of files in an area 21 x 22 feet, with only one aisle. The semi-active status of the records made the use of a four-row depth feasible.

Each mobile base carries two columns of file cabinets, ten units high. A base and 20 files weigh about 1350 pounds and are almost eleven feet high. There are 48 such bases used. The 1320 drawers provide a records storage capacity of 2376 cubic feet, or 31,680 filing inches, occupying 462 sq. ft. of floor space. The same capacity in a non-mobile arrangement would require about four aisles. Thus, the three aisles saved by our mobile layout would have required an additional 200 sq. ft. If we had more floor space, we would reduce the height of files to eight-high. The only difficulty in having them ten-high is the vertical length of the ladders required; not the moving of the files.

1920 tab card drawers are mobilized here in 4 mobile rows. Each mobile base, carrying 80 drawers, can be easily moved by female clerks.



A space problem in records storage was solved by converting existing transfer files to a mobile storage system. 8 rows of files here require only 1 aisle instead of 4 aisles. Basic mobile equipment handles any type of storage unit.

Units Move Easily

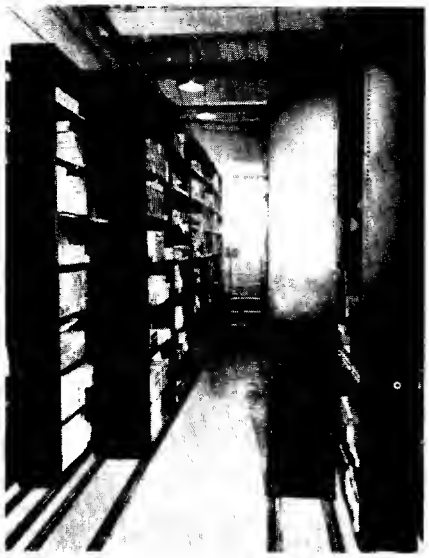
It was decided to house our processed tabulating cards in two-drawer steel transfer files equipped with nylon glides. The minimum outside dimension design, coupled with the mobile storage arrangement, offered the maximum possible utilization of the area.

The small-size files were mounted two wide and 20 high (80 drawers) on mobile bases. Each loaded base weighs about 2100 pounds. There are 12 such bases. In addition, there are three mobile bases, each carrying files three wide and twenty high (120 drawers), weighing about 3200 pounds. These heavily loaded bases are easily moved by our female employees.

Three mobile rows are placed in front of one fixed row, all banked on a common passageway. This area, therefore, does not actually use any aisles. The layout of four rows deep is ideal for low reference records.

This same non-mobile layout would require two aisles or about 126 additional square feet. The capacity of this compact area is 6,912,000 IBM cards in 1920 drawers, requiring 180 sq. ft. of floor space.

All stationery supplies are consolidated in an area approximately 23 ft. x 30 ft., utilizing 90 steel shelving units. Half of the units are mobile, in sections of two mobile rows in front of one fixed row. This three-row-deep layout is suitable to the high prevailing activity. The units vary in depth and width but



Office supplies are stored in 90 shelf units consolidated into 23 x 30' of floor space. 12 rows of 10' high shelving need only 2 aisles.

IN BRIEF: If your firm, too, is in need of "wall stretching" here's a case study that shows one of the most practical solutions to storage and space problems. We shall be pleased to revise your floor plans to show the exact benefits of conversion to DOLIN MOBILE STORAGE.